

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of reporting availability of a plurality of application servers, said method comprising the steps of:

for each of said plurality of application servers, periodically searching a log file of the server for indication of a crash or shutdown or start of the server;

computing the time said crash or shutdown or start occurred;

the application servers sending said time and indication as an e-mail to a database on a reporter server;

calculating the duration of downtime for each said crash or said shutdown;

for each application server, sorting said e-mail by order received; and

displaying for each of said plurality of application servers, said duration of downtime in said order.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the sending step includes the step of sending said e-mail to a database on a pre-identified one server; and

the sorting step includes the step of sorting said e-mail by order received by said pre-identified one server.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

each of the plurality of servers includes an e-mail function; and

the sending step includes the step of, each server using its e-mail function to send the time and indication to said database.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein:

the sending step includes the step of sending said e-mail to a database on a pre-identified one server; and

the displaying step includes the step of, said one server, issuing a report showing said durations of downtimes.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the searching step includes the step of, each of said plurality of servers, searching a log file on said each server for said indication; and

the computing step includes the step of each of said plurality of servers computing the time said crash or shutdown or start of said each server occurred.

6. (Previously Presented) A system for reporting availability of a plurality of application servers, said method comprising:

means for periodically searching, for each of said plurality of servers, a log file of the server for indication of a crash or shutdown or start of the server;

means for computing the time said crash or shutdown or start occurred;

means for sending said time and indication as an e-mail from the application servers to a database on a reporting server;

means for calculating the duration of downtime for each said crash or said shutdown;

means for sorting, for each application server, said e-mail by order received by the reporting server;
and

a display means for displaying for each of said plurality of application servers, said duration of downtime in said order.

7. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein:

the sending means includes means for sending said e-mail to a database on a pre-identified one server; and

the sorting means includes means for sorting said e-mail by order received by said pre-identified one server.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein:

each of the plurality of servers includes an e-mail function; and

each server using its e-mail function to send the time and indication to said database.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 6, wherein:

said e-mail is sent to a database on a pre-identified one server; and

said one server includes means for issuing a report showing said durations of downtimes.

10. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein:

the searching means includes means, on each of said plurality of servers, for searching a log file on said each server for said indication; and

the computing means includes means on each of said plurality of servers, for computing the time said crash or shutdown or start of said each server occurred.

11. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for reporting availability of a plurality of application servers, said method steps comprising:

for each of said plurality of application servers, periodically searching a log file of the server for indication of a crash or shutdown or start of the server;

computing the time said crash or shutdown or start occurred;

the application servers sending said time and indication as an e-mail to a database on a reporter server;

calculating the duration of downtime for each said crash or said shutdown;

for each application server, sorting said e-mail by order received by the reporter server; and

displaying for each of said plurality of application servers, said duration of downtime in said order.

12. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein:

the sending step includes the step of sending said e-mail to a database on a pre-identified one server;
and

the sorting step includes the step of sorting said e-mail by order received by said pre-identified one server.

13. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein:

each of the plurality of servers includes an e-mail function; and

the sending step includes the step of, each server using its e-mail function to send the time and indication to said database.

14. (Original) A program storage device according to claim 11, wherein:

the sending step includes the step of sending said e-mail to a database on a pre-identified one server;
and

the displaying step includes the step of, said one server, issuing a report showing said durations of downtimes.

15. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein:

the searching step includes the step of, each of said plurality of servers, searching a log file on said each server for said indication; and

the computing step includes the step of each of said plurality of servers computing the time said crash or shutdown or start of said each server occurred.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of reporting availability of a plurality of application servers, said method comprising the steps of:

for each of said plurality of servers, periodically searching a log file of the server for an indication of the occurrence of each of a group of defined conditions for the server;

computing the time of occurrence of the group of defined conditions;

the application servers sending said time and said indication, as electronic mail, to a database on a reporter server;

for each of a subset of the group of defined conditions, calculating the duration of time the application server is in each of said subset of conditions;

for each application server, sorting the electronic mail by order received by the reporter server; and

for each of the plurality of application servers, displaying in said order, the duration of time the server is on said subset of conditions.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the group of conditions includes a crash of the server, a shutdown of the server, and a start of the server.

18. (New) A method of reporting the availability of application servers in a distributed computer system, said system including a plurality of application servers, a reporter server and an administration terminal, wherein the application server and the reporter server are all interconnected via a network, the method comprising the steps:

each of the application servers providing a services to a set of clients;

the application servers collecting, in log files, data about the application servers, said data including information identifying when each of the application servers was started and stopped and data relating to why the server stopped operating, including the step of each of the application servers periodically searching one of the log files for indication of a crash or shutdown or start of the server, and computing the time said crash or shutdown or start occurred;

connecting the reporter server in series between the application servers and the administration terminal;

each of the application servers pushing by electronic mail at least one of said log files including said information, to the reporter server by electronic mail;

operating the reporter server as a mid-level systems manager by receiving said log files and processing said log files to reduce the amount of information sent to the administration terminal, including the steps of, for each of the application servers, sorting said received electronic mails by order received, calculating the duration of downtime for each said crash or said shutdown, and displaying for each of the application servers said duration of downtime in said order;

the reporter server comprising a random access memory, a system read only memory (ROM) including input/output system software, a central processing unit, a mass storage devices comprising at least one magnetic disk and including operating system software and application software, at least one removable storage means including a removable disk drive, a network adapter, a keyboard, a keyboard adapter, a pointing device, a pointing device adapter, a liquid crystal display panel, a display adapter, and a bus architecture; and

each of the application servers comprising software for generating system logs and sending out electronic mail, random access memory, read only memory, a central processing unit, a mass storage device comprising at least one magnetic disk, at least one removable storage means including a removable disk drive, a network adapter, a keyboard, a keyboard adapter, a pointing device, a pointing device adapter, a liquid crystal display panel, a display adapter, and a bus architecture.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 18, comprising the further step of displaying said method on multiple domains; and wherein the pushing step includes the step of using the server's built in e-mail capability to send the data to the reporter server to reduce, by 250 times, storage and bandwidth requirements of the reporter server needed to receive and to store said information.